



## *State of New Jersey*

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### **MCGREEVEY CONVENES ENERGY SUMMIT**

***Orders new schools to meet strict energy standards, reducing operating costs by 40%***

***Announces Renewable Energy Task Force***

***Calls upon mid-Atlantic governors to set minimum efficiency standards***

(TRENTON) – Speaking at the Energy Summit he convened to discuss the future of energy in New Jersey, Governor James E. McGreevey announced key aspects of an energy blueprint designed to promote affordability and reliability, create jobs, and improve the quality of the State's air and water.

"Energy is a critical issue to the people of New Jersey – it warms our homes, fuels our cars and powers our economy," said McGreevey. "We have a fundamental obligation to make our energy affordable, to make it reliable, to use it more efficiently, and to make more of it renewable."

"Today Governor McGreevey announced a plan for a cleaner, healthier, and more reliable energy future," said NJ PIRG Acting Director Dena Mottola. "Fostering clean and efficient technologies is the best step New Jersey can take to protect the environment, our health, and our pocketbooks."

"It's important for the Governor to show leadership on an issue that affects everyone's lives, and bringing together so many energy experts will go a long way toward making our lives better," said New Jersey Sierra Club Director Jeff Tittel. "Together, we can protect the environment, make our air cleaner, and help promote Smart Growth through energy policy and planning."

Speaking at the Summit, which took place at the War Memorial in Trenton, Governor McGreevey highlighted significant steps the State is taking to use energy as efficiently as possible and to save taxpayer dollars.

Governor McGreevey announced that he has issued an order that all new schools built by the New Jersey School Construction Corporation must meet LEED standards, the U.S. Green Building Council's nationally recognized standard for efficient and environmentally conscious building. This initiative will reduce the operating costs of our new schools by up to 40%.

“We have a responsibility to the taxpayers and residents of this State to operate as efficiently as possible,” said Governor McGreevey. “Renewable energy is the energy of the future, and I am committed to leading the way.”

Governor McGreevey also announced that he will establish a Renewable Energy Task Force to promote the use of renewable energy in New Jersey. The Task Force will report to the Governor no later than March 1, 2003 with recommendations on how to strengthen and expand the renewable energy requirements the state imposes on energy suppliers.

In addition, Governor McGreevey called upon the governors of the mid-Atlantic states to work with him to set minimum efficiency standards for common products that the federal government fails to regulate, such as exit signs, ceiling fans and traffic signals. These standards, when implemented, will save New Jersey businesses, residents and government upwards of \$1 billion over the next 10 years.

To create jobs in the high-tech area of renewable energy, Governor McGreevey announced that he is directing Board of Public Utilities President Jeanne M. Fox to spearhead a collaborative effort among the State’s relevant agencies and commissions to attract renewable energy and emerging energy technology businesses to New Jersey. Governor McGreevey emphasized that to succeed in this effort the State must effectively utilize its university resources, leverage existing business development programs, and examine how to streamline regulatory and permitting processes.

Governor McGreevey also announced that the Board of Public Utilities will be hosting a conference - co-sponsored by the NJBIA, the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, the League of Municipalities, the Retail Merchants Association and the Food Council – that will educate municipalities and small- to medium-sized businesses about how to reduce their energy costs. Participating businesses will learn about shopping for energy in a deregulated market; aggregation; improving efficiency; and using renewable energy.

Also at today’s Summit, Verizon New Jersey Inc. President Dennis M. Bone signed a Covenant of Sustainability with Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bradley Campbell and President Fox, pledging to support the State’s goal to reduce its statewide greenhouse gas emissions to 3.5% below 1990 baseline levels by the year 2005.

In addition to speaking, the Governor led a panel of nationally recognized energy leaders in a discussion on the future of energy in New Jersey. The panel was followed by three breakout groups, led by members of the Governor’s cabinet, including Commissioner Campbell; Susan Bass Levin, Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs; Caren Franzini, Executive Director of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority; Public Advocate Designate Seema M. Singh, Esq.; and BPU President Fox.

Governor McGreevey is committed to leading by example in the area of energy use. The State signed a contract in May with Green Mountain Energy to receive 12% of its energy from renewable sources, an initiative which earned the State the 2002 Green Power Leadership Award from the Environmental Protection Agency.